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NEW VISIONS IN COMMUNICATION

by Suzanne Evans Morris, PhD

Suzanne Evans Morris, a speech-language pathologist and educator based near Charlottesville, Virginia, is nationally and internationally known for her work with children with developmental disabilities. Dr. Morris maintains a private practice including direct clinical work, continuing education programs, development of clinical materials, and clinical research. She is the director of New Visions, which sponsors innovative professional workshops and provides family-centered clinical services. She is also a member of The Monroe Institute® Board of Advisors, a GATEWAY OUTREACH Trainer, and has been a Professional Division member since 1983.

One of my greatest pleasures has always been connecting with people in meaningful ways. When working with children with oral-motor and feeding difficulties, this means establishing a bond with that child, creating a conduit through which our communication can flow effortlessly back and forth. With other professionals and parents, connecting means being completely open to their ideas and experiences, being willing to consider new possibilities. A consummate networker, I watched and participated with excitement as the phenomenon of the Internet began to take hold. The Internet was custom-made for “connecting,” and I established many valuable contacts through chat rooms and bulletin boards prior to developing a New Visions site on the World Wide Web.

Since attending the *GATEWAY VOYAGE*® in 1981 I have used Hemi-Sync® in my practice, often with startlingly positive results. E-mail provided a forum for discussing these results with interested colleagues I would otherwise never have met. Connections with co-members in the Professional Division who are on-line challenged me to consider new research and clinical directions. By developing a website, a whole new level of information sharing would be available. For over ten years the symbol of a spider web has been New Visions’ metaphor for therapy, implying the interconnectedness of all things. For this reason we approached the construction of our site with particular delight. This February, after nearly a year of planning, New Visions proudly introduced its site on the Web.

My son, David Morris, was hired as our designer and webmaster. David is uniquely suited to creating a digital face for New Visions. He is, first, a talented artist skilled in a variety of media, including computer graphics and design. While in college he moonlighted as a website graphic designer. Second, he’s lived and breathed New Visions virtually since he was born. David developed a great-looking visual concept built around Betsy True’s line drawings that have become associated with the New Visions look in our brochures, catalog, and manuals. Our

goal is to maintain an uncluttered, classy, and easy to navigate site with the focus on sharing ideas and information.

The site is updated every two or three weeks. We want people to know that ongoing communication is central to New Visions.

With information sharing as a priority, a great deal of thought was given to links to other sites. The result, in our *Feed Your Mind* section, is *Links We Like*, one of the richest resources available on the Web. *Links We Like* opened with more than one hundred carefully selected entries. Because each link is annotated, browsers have enough information to determine if the site contains the type of material they're seeking before visiting it. Links are located in one of ten subject categories: "Information," "Anatomy and Physiology," "Feeding Development," "Feeding and Swallowing," "Gastrointestinal," "Respiratory," "Health and Nutrition," "Education and Therapy," "Parenting," and "Mailing Lists." *Links We Like* reflects New Visions' holistic philosophy—featuring both conventional and alternative resources for health and education. Two links to TMI's site target areas of specific interest to New Visions' browsers: TMI: Hemi-Sync Learning Systems, the description of the use of binaural beats, and TMI: Hemi-Sync Research Papers.

Feed Your Mind offers a variety of New Visions' Information Papers, including several originally published in the HEMI-SYNC JOURNAL which I received permission to "reprint" from the Institute. The learning area, for instance, contains "A Guide: Hemi-Sync Tapes for Learning" and "Recapturing the Intuitive." Because we carry both METAMUSIC® *Remembrance* and METAMUSIC *Einstein's Dream* in our Mealtimes catalog, links were also made between the Hemi-Sync guide article and TMI Professional Member Barbara Bullard's papers on these topics at her website. Eventually, we'll link articles to sections of our catalog to demonstrate a more direct connection between the ideas discussed and the resources that support them.

To Talk to New Visions you can e-mail an individual New Visions staff member, or request specific information and be placed on our mailing list by e-mailing the form provided. Clicking on "Who Are We?" accesses brief job descriptions/bios of each New Visions player.

Our *Mealtimes Catalog* section is a treat to browse. Until the whole catalog is on-line, the "Product Sampler" showcases dozens of our favorite Mealtimes products. Each item is beautifully illustrated with a textured canvas drawing. Visitors to the site may request a catalog or download an order form for mailing or faxing. Website links to Adobe allow visitors to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader directly. This software enables those with DOS, Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX computer platforms to read and print documents downloaded in the PDF format. With this feature, browsers can download the entire 1997 Mealtimes Catalog and save it to their hard drive to be printed as desired.

Of course, we offer detailed and up-to-date information on our programs in the *Workshops and Clinical* sections. The workshop "Recapturing the Intuitive in Therapy and Education" is designed for professionals working with children and adults with special needs. New Visions programs use Hemi-Sync extensively to develop and support the states of consciousness in which clinical and personal intuition are most accessible.

Since going on-line in February, "hits" to the site and the number of on-site requests for information have steadily increased. We would love to hear from other Professional Members on-line via our site at <http://www.new-vis.com>

See you in the web!

Thank you, Micki.

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